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FALL 1984 Vol. XIV, No. 2

Refugees from Angola with their church building in Meheba camp, Zambia

UCBWM Responds to Crises in Philippines, Africa

All 70 congregations of the Surigao Conference of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines lost their church buildings in the devastating typhoon *Nitang,* which struck in late August. According to Bishop Mercurio Serina, General Secretary of the UCCP, in addition to the loss of the church buildings, 90% of the UCCP members in that area suffered serious to total damage to their homes. The Surigao Conference is located on the northeastern tip of Mindanao in the Southern Philippines, an area frequently hit by typhoons; *Nitang* has been judged the most deadly typhoon to have struck the Philippines in decades, with an estimated death count as high as 3,000.

Philippine government authorities designated seven regions in the country as under a state of calamity. Twenty UCCP Conferences are within those seven regions. A series of seven destructive typhoons climaxed by *Nitang* came in rapid succession to the Philippines and left a wide path of devastation and death from one end of the Islands to the other.

Church World Service launched an emergency initial appeal for $50,000, to which UCBWM responded immediatley with a UCCP grant of $10,000 to Church World Service. Additional funds have been sent to the Mindanao Jurisdictional office.

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The Africa food crisis continues to challenge governments and private agencies to provide assistance to the estimated 150 million persons in more than two dozen African nations who are facing starvation. In addition, World Health Organization authorities have estimated that five million African children will die from famine-related causes during 1984 and another five million face permanent physical and mental damage from chronic malnutrition. Reports from Church World Service overseas staff along with those from the World Council of Churches and our partner-

Continued on Page 5

Active Church Life Found in Zambia Refugee Camp

Visits to refugee camps in Africa are not likely to be inspiring. They concentrate much of the hunger and misery that Africa today contains. But a recent visit to the Meheba camp for Angolan refugees in the far northwestern corner of Zambia provides an inspiring encounter with displaced and destitute people helped by their church fellowship to help themselves.

The Meheba camp has a population of about 14,000 adults, settled on plots in what was almost uninhabited bush country. There are 37 church buildings in the camp, representing many denominations. Three congregations, totaling approximately 1,500 adult members, stem from the church in Central Angola founded by American Board missions some generations ago. They now belong to the United Church of Zambia.

Church life is vibrant, with a great many young people actively involved. Members have helped one another to pioneer in effective utilization of the land they have

Continued on Page 12

ISSUE PERSPECTIVE . . . NICARAGUA: THE CHURCHES' ROLE — SEE PAGES 10 & 11

Continuing the Missionary Herald, founded 1805.
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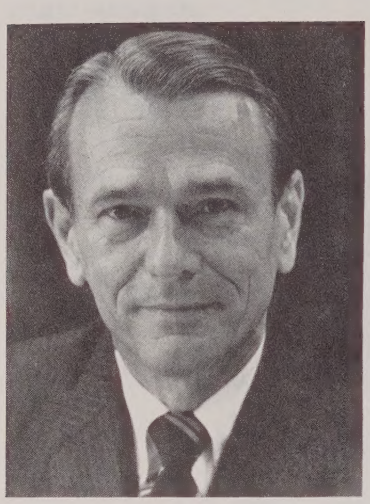


Message from the EVP

We were being most cordially received by the senior research officer at the National Archives of Zimbabwe. Our purpose was to examine their fine collection of materials related to the American Board Mission. That mission began in 1893 as "Rhodesia" was being incorporated into the British Empire by Cecil Rhodes.

"But first," he said, "I want to show you our Treasure," whereupon he laid before us two volumes of the *Journals* of David Livingstone. Of all the important materials in those Archives it was a *missionary's* record of his travels that constituted their "Treasure."

A statue of Cecil Rhodes, the empire builder, has been moved by the newly independent Zimbabwe from a central location in the capital to an obscure corner of the Archives grounds. But the statue of David Livingstone still stands commandingly facing the Victoria Falls, to which more visitors go than to any other place in the country.

On the following day I was invited for lunch at the capital's five-star hotel by graduates of our Board-founded schools at Mt. Selinda and Chikore. They told of the wealth of talent which had been developed by those schools—today's diplomats, government officials, businessmen, leaders in medicine and education. At a more workaday level the fame of the builders and carpenters trained in the manual arts department is still widespread in Zimbabwe.

Visiting the hospital at Mt. Selinda, we learned that patients travel long distances, some coming across the border from Mozambique, to the "Dr. Stetson hospital." UCBWM missionary Kirk Stetson has been gone from Africa for 11 years! But the fame of his surgery and his caring endures throughout a whole countryside and spans an international border.

But there is another side to this inspiring story of the missionary heritage. The hospital at Mt. Selinda still operates at capacity, but the size and composition of its staff hardly meets government standards. We saw beds without sheets, mattresses that were crumbling, an X-ray machine and darkroom producing pictures that are almost impossible to read. Patients have no hospital plates or bowls for meals. There is no hot water for washing of laundry. The hospital struggles just to keep going amid a population of thousands with no other access to medical care.

The men at the luncheon likewise spoke with regret of the loss of status and quality by the mission-founded schools. With the handicaps they have in finance and staff they no longer set the pace for the nation as they once did.

The reasons are many. When these institutions began they were unique, the vanguard of those forces that would bring Gazaland into the modern world. Since then Zimbabwe has experienced an impressive development. The tide of history has overtaken the mission programs that once led the way. They still serve well. But is the vitally distinctive contribution still there?

These questions pose for our partner United Church in Zimbabwe and for our Board fundamental issues of priority and strategy. In one form or another similar questions face the institutional heritage of mission in many countries. There is certainly no easy answer, but several responses are possible.

Some of the most immediate and specific needs can surely be met simply by making them known to the American church. Sheets, and a good used X-ray machine, sterilizing equipment, would gladly be underwritten if our churches knew of the lack of these essentials.

It is also true that while we celebrate the leadership role of the past we ought to consider what may seem humbler tasks. The massive entry by governments everywhere into the fields of health, education and welfare is a tribute to the social conscience which missions, in many places, first quickened. Perhaps a conscious focus now on meeting the needs of those who fall between the cracks of government programs, or whose needs are not yet recognized, is a humbler role and yet in its own way one of significant leadership. Concentration on the poorest and most neglected would enact Jesus' words, "Inasmuch as you did it for the least of these you did it for me."

In our worldwide partnerships we must identify not only what we can and must do, but also be frank about the obligations laid on those whose own more abundant life has been in some measure a gift of Christian mission. They must now reinvest their own resources, skills and energies in the ongoing ministries of the Christian community which has nurtured them. That is what the luncheon conversation in Harare was really all about. Our alumni friends were saying: We count on you American partners to continue your presence and your help. But it is up to us now to take up the challenge of mission for our own day and with our own people. □

David M. Stowe

For latest news and comment call: **UCBWM NEWS LINE — (212) 870-3257**

Study/Dialogue Tour Group Affirms Unity With Eastern European Christians

"We have proved that the church is able to survive in any circumstances in the face of any hardship and challenge," a Russian Orthodox speaker told this year's UCBWM Eastern Europe Study/Dialogue Tour group in Moscow. "But," he continued, "we know that survival is not enough. We still need to find ways of witnessing in our society, because the Gospel requires us to witness." The opportunities and the problems for Christian witness within a secularized socialist society constituted one focal point of interest of the Study/Dialogue Tour group, which recently returned from three weeks in East Germany, the Soviet Union, and Czechoslovakia. In each country they met with church leaders and others, in order to become more directly acquainted with the situation of Christians in Eastern Europe and to share perspectives on how the churches can contribute to understanding and the relaxation of international tension.

The trip began with an unexpectedly dramatic twist in that President Reagan's so-called joke about outlawing the Soviet Union and beginning the bombing in five minutes was reported just the day before the group was scheduled to cross into East Germany, the first country in the Eastern Europe itinerary. Not knowing what Soviet response or possible retaliation President Reagan's remark might provoke, some tension was felt initially as the group proceeded with its travels and discussions. As matters turned out, members found the Eastern European official reaction prudently restrained, combining a sense of satisfaction that the American President had provided clear evidence to confirm the aggressive image they had ascribed to him with a widespread feeling of incredulity that a world leader holding such power and responsibility could possibly make bombing a subject for humor in the present world situation.

In fact, the severity of suffering experienced during World War II in all the countries visited made a vivid impact on the group, as they continually were made aware of the scope of war-time devastation and deprivation and as they heard individuals recount their personal memories of war experiences. An unforgettable highlight was the cemetery in Leningrad where a half-million bodies of those who died during the 900-day siege of the city in World War II were buried in mass graves.

This recent history has resulted in widespread popular sentiment throughout Eastern Europe abhorring war and determined to avert the nuclear catastrophe which is perceived as a dangerous threat.

Discussions with Christian partners continually emphasized that the kind of face-to-face dialogue which this visit makes possible is one of the most important functions churches can fulfill. One speaker commented, "The greatest danger in the world is that everyone creates false pictures of the other side," affirming that such direct contact between Christians of East and West is the one means we have of replacing "false pictures" and "enemy-images," based on fear and suspicion, with understanding relationships and more informed perspectives.

Besides the churches' contribution to understanding and peace, however, the group was impressed with the courage and faithfulness with which Eastern European churches are carrying on their own life as churches—including finding opportunities to witness—in the face of pressures and restrictions they face from their governments.

The group's sense of unity with these Eastern European Christians did not mean that there was agreement on all questions—either on defining precise steps to achieve peace or on issues of church policies and activities. Yet even in cases where differences of opinion prevailed, the group found that understanding more deeply the historical circumstances out of which particular viewpoints and practices had developed was of great help in comprehending the reasons for the differences in perspective.

A key impression reported by members of the group was their feeling—somewhat unexpectedly—that individuals they met in Eastern Europe were reaching out for contact across the barriers of language and politics, simply recognizing that all belong to one human family. A chance involvement in a wedding party in Moscow offered a deeply personal illustration of happiness in the ordinary course of life. The problems of life in a socialist society like-

Continued on Page 11

The 175th Annual Meeting
of the
United Church Board for World Ministries
will be held in
Chicago, November 11 - 14, 1984
Theme: "This Far By Faith"

UCBWM corporate members will gather for accounting, review, renewal, and rededication; to celebrate and give thanks for the leadership of David M. Stowe; and to elect a new Executive Vice President.

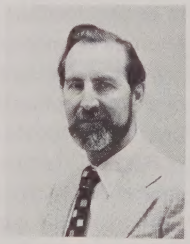
For the first time the members of the Fellowship of Continuing Understanding and Support (FOCUS)—mostly former corporate members, missionaries, and staff—will meet concurrently with the 175th Annual Meeting.

Missionaries' Notebook

INDIA

Jo and Keith Jamieson, *now located in Bombay, serve in liaison between the United Church of Christ, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), and United Church of Canada and their partner organizations in Southern Asia.*

Surely one of the reasons, if not the main reason, that God has created humankind is to share in the joy and fullness of his kingdom—starting now, even in the imperfection of this world. Our "mission in life" is to fulfill the reason for our being, which is "kingdom-living." That is, to live in the deepest, fullest fellowship with God and with one another. In "kingdom-living" there is no place for hate, corruption, exploitation, oppression, torture, and the like, but rather a place only for freedom, love, justice, equality, and peace. Consequently, all of us wherever we are are challenged to promote "kingdom-living" as a lifestyle, locally, nationally, and internationally.



Of the positive qualities mentioned above, "peace" is very much on the minds of people around the world today. In an interview with Mrs. Gandhi, we heard her express her concern "that any nuclear conflict between the superpowers might well leave north India, if not all of India, a barren waste."

TAIWAN

Penny Phillips *is a speech therapist in the Ear, Nose, and Throat Department at Changhua Christian Hospital in Changhua.*

Every day has its surprises and miracles; I am convinced of that. Sometimes I feel we are so spoiled by this world of overabundance that we forget the glory and wonder and beauty of God's presence in

our daily lives in small ways. We tend to want big things in big ways with big results, and when they don't happen, it is easy to become discouraged and frustrated. I want to find small wonders in my daily life, small moments of stillness in my busyness. I can find peace and contentment from baking cookies, completing an embroidery project, seeing the new green shoots and leaves on my apartment plants, getting a phone call from home, seeing the beautiful arrangements of fruits and vegetables in the market here. Let's try to focus on the "little" miracles of life, and just think about getting along with our neighbor, and then the "big" miracles of life will follow.

INDIA

Anne Seely *is an elementary teacher at Kodaikanal School in Kodaikanal.*

I thank God for Kodaikanal School and the opportunities for interracial, international harmony here. This year we have 465 students from 25 countries in grades K-12. Of these, 325 are boarders, and the rest are day students.

I thank God for my work here among the elementary students, in my classroom and in the dormitories. I will be teaching 22 in the fourth grade this year and probably 13 in my sixth grade reading group. I am grateful for the children who have touched my life, tested and taught me, blessed me with joy and affection.

I thank God for the presence of "pilgrim" sisters and brothers in Christ in my community. They have inspired, modelled, supported, challenged, and loved me.

I thank God for the ability to adapt and do without in my lifestyle. I have a poster in my apartment that says: "It is not how much we have, but how much we enjoy that makes happiness."

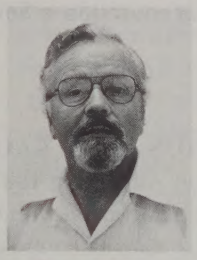
I thank God for the beauty and intricacy of His creation and the marvel of its infinite diversity! So many kinds of flowers, insects, clouds, sunsets, faces, abilities, and needs. The list could go on forever. It is a privilege to worship a living God of creativity and diversity, who does not relate to human beings according to a single blueprint.

I thank God for being faithful, even when I am not, even when I misinterpret His ways of working, even when I am disappointed because He doesn't meet my expectations. "His loving kindness is everlasting, and His faithfulness to all generations." (Psalms 100:5) That is the best thing of all. □

JOHNSONS ASSUME NEW DUTIES

UCBWM missionaries Eugene and Natalie Johnson, having just completed a term of service in Zimbabwe, have begun a new assignment in the UCBWM office in New York. Mr. Johnson is serving as Acting Regional Secretary in the Africa office, with responsibility for administration of UCBWM relationships and programs in Africa, until a new Regional Secretary for Africa can be elected, probably early in 1985. Mrs. Johnson will serve as Missionary in Residence.

Except for a three-year assignment to the Philippines, the Johnsons have worked since 1965 in Zimbabwe, then Rhodesia. Their first appointment there was to Pierce Hospital, Mt. Selinda, which Mr. Johnson served first as business manager and then as administrator and Mrs. Johnson helped in setting up a new



Eugene Johnson

Natalie Johnson

bacteriology laboratory.

In 1973 they moved to Salisbury, where Mr. Johnson became executive secretary of the Association of Rhodesian Church Hospitals, comprised of all the mission hospitals of every denomination in the country. He worked for the organization for three years, helping to establish "nutritional villages" and clinics for children under five and to carry out relief assistance.

This was followed by a term of service at Bethany Hospital in the Philippines, where Mr. Johnson was hospital administrator and Mrs. Johnson a bacteriologist.

In 1981, after a short consultancy by Mr. Johnson with the Christian Health Association of Sierra Leone, they returned to Zimbabwe. They lived first in Harare, while Mr. Johnson was projects director for the United Church of Christ in Zimbabwe, and then returned to Mt. Selinda, where Mr. Johnson has been administrator of health services, managing two hospitals and six satellite clinics. Mrs. Johnson has been supervising Pierce Hospital's pharmacy, teaching anatomy and physiology in its nursing program, and working in its laboratory as a bacteriologist. □

Africa Food Crisis

Continued from Page 1

agencies in Africa confirm that the African continent is suffering from serious famine, probably the most serious of the century. Their reports have suggested that the effects of the current food crisis will not end this or even next year, but will be felt for a long time into the future.

In testimony presented recently to committees of the US House of Representatives, Church World Service staff noted that reports from Zimbabwe state that in this third year of drought over two million people now face food shortages, which are exacerbated by the presence of 100,000 refugees from Mozambique—ironically, in search of food. Food aid, as well as seed, fertilizers, and tools for agricultural rehabilitation will, it appears, be needed for at least another year.

Again, church personnel confirm that Mozambique, where deaths from starvation have already mounted into the thousands, is probably the most seriously affected African country. A June Mennonite Central Committee report indicated that in urban as well as rural areas the food situation had worsened considerably.

Reports from country after country list similar problems and needs. CWS personnel stated to the Congressional committee, "Our information suggests that the battle against famine in Africa has just begun and unless more assistance is forthcoming it may be lost."

Through Church World Service UCBWM has been responding to the crisis. Thus far in 1984 $100,000 has been contributed to the Global Food Crisis Special Appeal of Church World Service, which was launched in August, 1983, with a goal of $6.5 million. Thus far slightly more than $2 million has been contributed. Church World Service recently appropriated money for the purchase of trucks needed in some countries to assist in the distribution of emergency food supplies from major distribution centers. Continued assistance is made available for food, seeds, and fertilizers to partner-agencies in African countries.

In addition to support of the Church World Service programs UCBWM has been providing additional assistance directly to several partner-church programs in Togo, Ghana, Zimbabwe, and Zambia, which are dealing with food production.

Governments, including the United States, were slow to respond to emergency appeals from the UN for assistance in Africa. More recently, the US has begun to move in providing some assistance by making available $150 million in supplemental food through the end of March, 1985. □

—Lloyd G. Van Vactor

UCBWM General Secretary for World Service

Whole Earth News Briefs

UCC theological students **JENNY BOTELER** (Eden Theological Seminary) and **PETER CAMPBELL** (Andover Newton Theological School) have been awarded UCBWM fellowships for theological study abroad and have gone to spend a half-year at United Theological College in Bangalore, India. UCBWM has had a long partnership with this ecumenical institution, recognized as a leading center for theological education in Southern Asia.

The release from prison of **DR. CHUN-MING KAO,** General Secretary of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, was announced in August. In 1980 Dr. Kao was given a seven-year prison sentence because his office had been in contact with the leader of a human rights demonstration, later declared subversive, but during his imprisonment he continued to receive international church attention and to serve as a source of inspiration to many. Although his physical condition is reported as "only fair," it is assumed that he will resume his church responsibilities, since the church has refused to elect a successor.

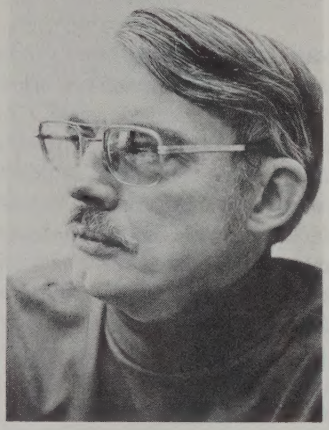
Procedures governing the operation of **PRIVATE SCHOOLS IN TURKEY** have been relaxed under the terms of a new law. The changes give greater freedom in day-to-day working arrangements to such institutions as the three UCBWM-related schools in the country, Uskudar, Izmir, and Tarsus, thus easing the administrative work of school staff. UCBWM missionary Melvin Wittler has played a key role in coordination among the various private schools and with the Turkish government in working for this type of modification in school regulations.

UCBWM Regional Secretary for Latin America and the Caribbean **PATRICIA J. RUMER** has been elected chair for the coming year of the Interreligious Task Force on Central America, the major ecumenical body working on Central America issues, which is based at the Interchurch Center. She has also been elected to the board of directors of the Washington Office on Latin America (WOLA).

Highlight of **THIS YEAR'S VISIT TO THE UCC BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EVANGELICAL CHURCH OF THE UNION (EKU)** was a Consultation on the Churches' Role in Peacemaking in Different Cultural and Social Contexts, held in Washington, DC, in June. Four East Germans and eight West Germans—including both pastors and lay leaders—participated, in the context of the regular UCC-EKU exchanges as part of the relationship of Full Church Fellowship *(Kirchengemeinschaft)*. UCC and EKU representatives shared experiences of how their churches are active in peacemaking and studied together the current situation of the arms race and arms control prospects.

Consultation participants issued a letter to their churches, summarizing their experience together and inviting their churches to use the text of the concluding worship service they had prepared together, on the theme "In God We Trust: Therefore We Risk Trusting Others." In particular, they proposed simultaneous use of this service in UCC and EKU churches in November during the "Ten Days for Peace," an annual observance initiated by East German churches for education and reflection on peace issues in local congregations and more recently observed also by West German churches. Single copies of the full text of the Consultation participants' letter to the churches and of the Consultation worship service may be obtained from the UCBWM Europe Office.

Whole Earth News Briefs



Appointment by Church World Service of UCBWM missionary **GUY ALLING** to be coordinator of medical services for an estimated 140,000 Afghan refugees living in camps in Baluchistan Province of Pakistan marks the Board's first major involvement in that country. Guy with his wife Barbara ("Muffie") has previously served on behalf of UCBWM in Ghana, Sierra Leone, and India. Muffie is currently in the US on a study program.

New refugee families fleeing across the border from Afghanistan arrive in Pakistan nearly every night. The Inter-Aid service program helps the refugees during the two-month period needed for the process of their registration with the Pakistan government. They receive tents, blankets, food, and medicines, as well as assistance with the registration procedures.

Subsequently the government moves the refugees from the transit areas near the border to more permanent camps. It is among these camps, in barren terrain resembling a moonscape, that Guy is working, based in the village of Dalbandin. Church World Service has undertaken work in this difficult situation on the specific request of the authorities, who particularly valued CWS' accomplishments in service elsewhere.

A total of 312 refugees has been resettled through UCBWM during the first eight months of 1984. While visiting refugee camps in Southeast Asia during August, World Service General Secretary **LLOYD VAN VACTOR** and **MS. ANNE WILSON,** who heads the UCBWM Refugee Resettlement Program, heard appeals to increase the number of sponsors, in order to move more refugees out of camps into a new life situation in the US.

Earlier this year **MORE THAN 600 LEADERS OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA (PROK),** partner-church of the UCC, met in Songnam Church, Seoul, planning a march for human rights, peace, and reunification. Rows of plainclothes police surrounding the church discouraged the march, but did not interfere with a procession in ecclesiastical robes around the church yard, calling for peace, reunification, and an end to the "politics of violence." Harassed in various ways throughout the two days, the ministers made it an occasion to celebrate Liberation Theology, especially in its Korean form of *Minjung Theology.*

A THREE-WEEK STUDY TOUR TO THE PHILIPPINES being planned by Dr. Robert Laubach is tentatively scheduled for February, 1985. The tour has been designed as part of the observance of the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Frank Laubach, missionary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, predecessor of UCBWM (see article in *Whole Earth Newsletter,* Vol. XIV, No. 1). Dr. Laubach with his wife began work in the Philippines in 1915, and it was among the Filipino Muslim population in Lanao that he developed the "Each One-Teach One" method of literacy that was to become world famous.

Dr. Robert Laubach, only surviving child of the Laubachs, recently retired from his teaching position at Syracuse University. He continues as chairman of the board of Laubach Literacy International.

The study tour he is planning will be of interest to members of the UCC because of the relationship of the elder Laubachs' early efforts to many current programs of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines. Among the places to be visited in addition to Marawi City, the birthplace of world-wide adult literacy, will be Cagayan de Oro City, Cebu City, Manila, Baguio, and the world-famous rice terraces of Mountain Province.

Further information regarding definite dates and costs can be obtained by writing directly to Dr. Robert Laubach, 226 Stratford Street, Syracuse, NY 13210.

Peace Fellowship Revives

We are members of the United Church of Christ who are committed to pursuing peace and justice through nonviolent means for the resolution of conflict. We believe that the Biblical vision of shalom *and Jesus' life, ministry, and teachings call us to reject all forms of violence. Therefore, we are unalterably opposed to war as an instrument of state policy, to the arms race which increases the chances that war will occur, and to unjust systems which oppress and impoverish our fellow human beings.*

These words open the proposed Preamble and Statement of Purpose of the newly reconstituted Peace Fellowship of the United Church of Christ. The UCCPF brings together members of our denomination who seek to develop new peace ministries which reflect a commitment to nonviolence in our personal and corporate lives. Many members of the UCCPF will be part of the larger peace priority network and will participate in its legislative advocacy. But through the Fellowship they will also express their special commitment to nonviolent intervention for peace and justice.

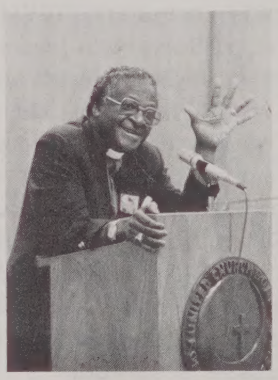
Announcement of plans for the Fellowship yielded enthusiastic replies from nearly 100 interested UCC members. There have been three start-up sessions in 1984, the most recent being in September in Nyack, NY, when the Peace Fellowship decided to focus initially on the development of a UCC peace theology.

Members have also agreed that the UCCPF would affiliate with the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), a prominent non-denominational religious pacifist organization, thereby entitling it to the tax-deductible status of the FOR and also expressing the commitment of the group to the FOR's principles. Seventeen other Peace Fellowships have a similar FOR affiliation. Cooperation with existing FOR programs, such as the US/USSR Reconciliation project, is another element in UCCPF plans.

In its exploration of the role the Peace Fellowship could play within the UCC, the group expects to help organize UCC representation at specific demonstrations, vigils, and nonviolent direct actions. It hopes to expand its membership and to communicate the message of nonviolence through a series of regional meetings and, on a regular basis, through gatherings at General Synods. Under the temporary leadership of Jo Clare Hartsig, of the Kirkridge Retreat Center, and Jane Inderstrodt, former Chair of the UCBWM Board of Directors, the Peace Fellowship is considering the possibility of a UCCPF newsletter and of a part-time UCC worker at the FOR. It also is in close contact with the Disciples Peace Fellowship, ready to explore avenues for collaboration on issues of peace and justice.

Anyone interested in knowing more about the United Church of Christ Peace Fellowship and the Fellowship of Reconciliation can write to Rev. Gary Davis, Woodmont UCC, 1000 New Haven Avenue, Milford, CT 06460. The Preamble and Statement of Purpose of the UCC group as well as brochures on the FOR are available. □

CALL FOR SUPPORT FOR DISPLACED SOUTH AFRICANS



Bishop Desmond Tutu

An urgent call to Christians everywhere to demonstrate solidarity with dispossessed black South Africans affected by the government's policy of resettlement has been issued by Bishop Desmond Tutu, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches, who has recently been awarded this year's Nobel Peace Prize. Bishop Tutu, widely recognized leader of anti-apartheid efforts, who earlier this year visited the UCBWM office in New York, has informed global partners that August was designated "Month of Compassion," including two days of fasting and prayer, as a "positive way of making a Christian response to forced removals and relocations."

Even beyond this period Bishop Tutu called for supportive signs of hope and solidarity to counteract the policy of forced removals that "is continuing unabatedly."

Citing a recent example, Bishop Tutu reported: "During the last few days the South African authorities have repeatedly destroyed plastic shelters of 'squatters' in Crossroads (near Cape Town). Men, women, and children have had to jump out of bed and stand shivering in the rainy South African winter as government officials first ripped plastic sheets off the wattle frameworks and then removed the wood. This is regarded as the appropriate way to convince people to move 'voluntarily' to Khayelitsha"—a newly assigned township 20 miles from Cape Town.

From there, he added, more "illegals" will be deported to nearby "homelands," where reports indicate many are starving. "Increasingly, blacks are made aliens in the country of their birth and are forced to move to 'independent homelands,' where almost no work opportunities exist," Tutu said. □

OVERSEAS WOMEN PARTICIPATE IN UCC MEETING

A call to a more mature partnership across the world was issued by Mrs. Vida Dzobo, of Ho, Ghana, the featured speaker at the International Luncheon sponsored by UCBWM as part of the UCC National Meeting of Women in Milwaukee, WI. At the luncheon, held July 13, in the Hyatt Regency Ballroom, Mrs. Dzobo addressed in forthright terms the theme of the meeting, "Women in the Spirit: Called and Free." She presented a concept of genuine partnership, rejecting, for example, the notion that people of Ghana can be viewed simply as part of a "Third World" defined by the so-called "First World."

For Vida Dzobo this was a return to work among UCC women, as she had spent six months in the Iowa Conference in 1982-1983 as part of the Women and World Project that brought ten women to the US for periods of ministry in UCC churches and Conferences. Mrs. Dzobo is Assistant Director of Basic (elementary) Education for the Ho District of the Volta Region of Ghana and an active laywoman in the Evangelical Presbyterian Church of Ghana, of which her husband, Dr. Noah Dzobo, is Moderator. Mrs. Dzobo was educated in Ghana, Great Britain, and at Teachers College, Columbia University in New York City.

Chaired by Dorothy Dickinson, UCBWM member of the Coordinating Center for Women Committee, the International Luncheon introduced ten other women from partner-churches overseas, some of whom brought greetings. All were involved in providing leadership to workshops and forums at the National Meeting. They included the following:

- Renate Biebrach of Dusseldorf, West Germany, a pastor at a large deaconess institution in Kaiserswerth;
- Grace Hwang of Changhua, Taiwan, working on a master's degree in speech therapy at the University of the Pacific, Stockton, CA, on leave from her work at Changhua Hospital;
- Lupita de Flores of Guaymas, Mexico, newly-elected president of the Women's Fellowship of the Mexican Congregational Church;
- Hide Fujiwara of Tokyo, Japan, on the staff of the Society to Protect Children with Biliary Atresia, and wife of a pastor of the United Church of Christ in Japan;
- Yoshi Aranami of Urawashi, Japan, on the staff of the Society to Protect Children with Biliary Atresia;
- Masako Yoshida of Sapporo, Japan, a high school teacher and lay church leader of the United Church of Christ in Japan;
- Haruko Furuya of Kitakyushu, Japan, an active church woman of the United Church of Christ in Japan and wife of a pastor;
- Keiko Kitagaki of Kyoto, Japan, an active church woman and homemaker;
- Casilda E. Luzares of Manila, Philippines, Executive Associate for Women's Educational Concerns with the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, on leave from the faculty of De La Salle University in Manila;
- Renate Salinger of Goerlitz, East Germany, a pastor and Director of Family and Women's Work of the Goerlitz Regional Church of the Evangelical Church of the Union (EKU). □

Photo: UCC Office of Communication

Keiko Kitagaki at the podium, with featured speaker Vida Dzobo

Pastoral Letter Calls for Study

UCC congregations have been called to undertake this fall a concentrated period of study, reflection, and prayer on the issues of peace and justice in Central America from a Biblical perspective. The call was conveyed in a pastoral letter issued jointly by Dr. David M. Stowe, UCBWM Executive Vice President; Dr. Yvonne V. Delk, OCIS Executive Director; Dr. Avery Post, UCC President; and Dr. C. Shelby Rooks, UCBHM Executive Vice President. The letter expresses concern about the deepening crisis in Central America and reviews the severely harmful consequences which rapid militarization, foreign exploitation, and harsh repression have brought to the region in recent years.

Noting that the US-supported military build-up has caused Honduras to have more military installations for its size than any other country in the world, the pastoral letter points out that only dialogue and the peaceful resolution of conflict, not military force, can solve the root problems of poverty and injustice in Central America. These considerations give renewed emphasis to the recognition that North American Christians have a special relationship and special responsibility for Central America. The pastoral letter further quotes from the resolution on Central America adopted at the 14th UCC General Synod; recent developments give renewed urgency to the resolution's call for a reversal of the US "policy of seeking military solutions" and for pursuing "with vigor every opportunity to obtain just, negotiated solutions."

A particularly valuable resource for congregations to utilize for their study of Central American issues is the *UCC Study Course on Central America,* which has just been prepared by UCBWM and OCIS. The course includes a packet with instructions to facilitators, background materials, Bible readings, and discussion questions, as well as the filmstrip, *Born from the People: Toward Understanding Central America.* Total cost of these course materials is $25.

Available free as a summary of current

Continued on Page 15

Issue Perspective . . .

(We introduce here a new Whole Earth Newsletter *feature, which in each issue will provide a brief outline summary and analysis of a current international issue, intended to assist readers in their evaluation and, when possible, further action.)*

INTRODUCTION

UCC General Synod 14 in its Central America resolution called on the US government to "reverse its policy of seeking military solutions . . . and to pursue with vigor every opportunity to obtain just, negotiated solutions." Current focal point of concern in Central America is Nicaragua, where sharply differing perceptions create a situation of conflicting interests and ongoing hostilities. Of particular concern for Christians is the churches' role in Nicaragua—an issue on which there is likewise sharp division.

CHURCH POSITIONS

Roman Catholic Archbishop Obando y Bravo and the Nicaraguan Conference of Bishops are the principal opponents to the government, but other elements in the church, especially the "base communities," are supportive of the Sandinistas. With some notable exceptions the Protestant minority (14% of the population) has generally supported the government. Protestant membership has quadrupled since 1979.

BASIC INFORMATION: Nicaragua

Population:	2.7 million (most thinly populated in region)	
Area:	57,000 square miles (about the same as North Carolina)	
Economy:	depends on coffee, sugar, cotton, timber exports	
Illiteracy:	60 to 70 percent before 1979 revolution; estimated 12 percent now	
Per Capita Income:	US $897	
Recent History:	1911-33	Under US military occupation
	1934-79	Ruled by Somoza family dynasty
	1979	Overthrow of Somoza rule and establishment of Sandinista government

Subsequent to 1979, US aid to Nicaragua was terminated, and the Soviet Union supplied military equipment and advisers. The US government accuses Nicaragua of assisting anti-government forces in El Salvador, and the US has provided support to Nicaraguan "counter-revolutionary forces" seeking to overthrow the Sandinista government. Elections in Nicaragua for president, vice-president, and congress are scheduled to be held in November, 1984.

NEW CRITICAL DEVELOPMENTS

- The Institute on Religion and Democracy on July 9, 1984, undertook a campaign in the United States to protest the "abuses of religious freedom and human rights committed by the Sandinistas." The campaign's aim is to end support for Nicaraguan church agencies that work with the government.
- The National Council of Churches on July 20, 1984, responded with a statement which, although deploring the deterioration of relations between the government of Nicaragua and a sector of the Roman Catholic Church, found no evidence of a Sandinista attack upon the Christian churches of Nicaragua, and affirmed support of the named church agencies as "genuine expressions of Christian community in Nicaragua."
- In late June Fr. Luis Amado Pena was arrested by the Sandinista government for conferring with a counterrevolutionary leader. The Conference of Bishops refused to condemn Fr. Pena's activities.
- The Sandinista government expelled ten foreign priests, accused of working against the government and in aid of the "contras." Archbishop Obando condemned the expulsion as "evidence that Marxism is trying to eliminate the church in Nicaragua."
- In August, the Vatican called upon the four priests in government to resign their public positions. In response, the Sandinista government sent a high-level delegation to the Vatican to discuss and resolve the growing tensions.
- In late August the National Council of Churches sent a delegation to Nicaragua to investigate the charges of religious persecution. An initial statement reported no evidence of systematic repression by the government against the church, but described the situation as serious.

. . . Nicaragua: The Churches' Role

THE CONTINUING ISSUES

UCBWM Executive Vice President David M. Stowe in a response to the accusations by the Institute on Religion and Democracy acknowledges that the Christian churches in Nicaragua experience "some conditions of restraint," not unlike churches in many other countries, and that "there is a sharp controversy" between the Sandinista government and the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Managua. He points out, however, that at the same time "the government is encouraging to Christian churches in many of their efforts" and that "various members of the government are clearly sympathetic to and identified with one or another Christian denomination." US Christians need to follow events in Nicaragua with informed concern and a recognition of the situation in Nicaragua as a country that finds itself under attack by (US-supported) "counter-revolutionary forces." The government can be expected to take actions it deems necessary for its defense; the achievement of "just, negotiated solutions," replacing this military threat with a situation of peace, could form the most effective means of promoting internal harmony within Nicaragua, including the practice of religious liberty.

FURTHER STEPS

This Issues Perspective is designed as a concise key to the understanding of a critical issue. If you have a particular interest in this subject and would like to receive a more detailed analysis, you may request a copy of *Nicaragua Update, April-August, 1984,* by Patricia J. Rumer, and/or the report on the recent visit to Nicaragua by the National Council of Churches delegation on religious persecution, by writing to:

Latin America/Caribbean office, UCBWM
475 Riverside Drive, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10115.

If you would like to maintain a continuing interest in Central America issues and are willing to undertake an advocacy role on these issues when needed, you may participate in UCBWM's Global Advocates Ministry, which will provide resource materials and briefings on a regular basis, as well as special alerts about critical issues requiring action. Membership forms for the Global Advocates Ministry are available from:

World Issues office, UCBWM
475 Riverside Drive, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10115.

Study/Dialogue Tour

Continued from Page 3

wise became more vivid in a meeting with an independent peace committee, whose members spoke of the difficulties and harrassment they had experienced from their government.

After the variety of feelings the group experienced, they had to appreciate the wisdom of the church spokesman who recounted with understanding the painful oppression his church had endured at the hands of a hostile government, yet also recognized the progress which his society had made since the socialist revolution, then concluded with the evaluation, "Our country is not heaven. But neither is it hell." Knowing Christians within that society who are pursuing the church's task of witnessing encouraged the hope that through our oneness in faith Christians of East and West can serve to transcend the human ideologies and systems which divide us from one another. □

World Conference on Religion and Peace IV

Can religion be a power for peace or will it continue to be, as often in the past, a source of platitudes about peace and of friction and conflict in the real world?

This was the central question behind the agenda of the Fourth World Conference on Religion and Peace, held in Nairobi, Kenya, in East Africa, August 23-31. I was a delegate, representing the UCC, and Virginia Stowe also attended at her own expense. For a dozen years the Board has given some support to this organization with its small secretariat at the United Nations and its programs of dialogue in various regions around the world. Major support comes from Japanese Buddhists and American Christians and Jews, but representatives of a dozen religions are active. More than 500 persons from 50 countries attended the Nairobi meeting.

I would identify three major contributions of the Conference. One was the sheer experience for 500 influential persons of intimate interaction in such a wildly diverse group. Two waterless days due to a broken water main provided a challenging simulation game about competition for scarce resources and the antagonisms such competition breeds.

Second, it was clear that this was a major learning experience for many religious groups which have had little or no tradition of critical involvement with public issues as a *religious* concern. UCC/USA members assume that religion and social action belong together. But that assumption is strange to many other families of faith, except in the uncritical form of imposing their own particular codes upon the society around them.

Finally, there were signs that in a setting of shared prayer and meditation, some very stubbornly divisive issues can be dealt with in a reconciling and constructive way. In a workshop on the Middle East, after angry confrontations and recriminations, an Israeli Jew, a Lebanese Shiite Muslim, and a Lebanese Maronite Christian got together and prepared a joint proposal for their region which represented real hope.

Such a "wider ecumenism" of interfaith collaboration is new and difficult. But it has some of the seeds of the future in it, and if it did not exist, would have to be invented. □

—David M. Stowe

STENHOUSE ELECTED TO NEW POSITION

Dr. Richard Stenhouse

Dr. Richard Stenhouse has been elected to a new executive staff position as UCBWM Consultant to the UCC Black Constituency and the Council of Racial and Ethnic Minorities, effective September 1, 1984. In this position he is developing a new program of relationships within the UCC, designed among other benefits to improve UCBWM's ability to recruit candidates of color for overseas service.

Dr. Stenhouse became UCBWM Regional Secretary for Africa in 1982, succeeding Dr. Chester Marcus, after serving from 1977 to 1982 as Associate Regional Secretary.

Previously he with his wife Ella had spent six years as UCBWM missionaries at the Evangelical Presbyterian Church Seminary in Peki, Ghana, where he was an instructor and subsequently Principal. Dr. Stenhouse is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church, USA, and holds the M.Div. degree from Union Theological Seminary, a master's degree from Haverford College, and a Ph.D. from the University of Denver. □

Zambia Refugee Camp

Continued from Page 1

been given. Some of it is swampland which has never been cultivated by the local Zambians. The refugees discovered that by hard work they can convert this rich soil into exceptionally fertile gardens which are productive even in the long dry season. Marvelous fields of huge cabbages, a much desired staple in the Zambian diet of corn meal mush and vegetables, together with fields of onions and other vegetables, have literally begun to make the wilderness bloom.

Raising much more than they can consume in the camp, the refugees have tried to sell their produce outside, but this is difficult because of the distance to markets and the few vehicles available for transportation. Available trucks are government-owned and tend to be undependable and expensive. The nearest small market is 75 kilometers away in Solwezi. Another market is found in Chingola, 250 kilometers distant. But the major market giving the best prices for farm produce is in Kitwe, approximately 300 kilometers away.

Therefore, the Meheba Church Council has sought to obtain their own truck for cooperative use by the farmers. UCBWM missionary Robin Markham, who now serves in Zambia and was formerly in Angola, has assisted in investigating possibilities. The United Church of Canada has agreed to contribute half the necessary cost, and the UCBWM Service Division is helping. The Meheba Church Council has voted to purchase a used vehicle in Japan through Mr. Markham, and it is hoped that early in 1985 the truck will be hard at work, carrying food to the markets of hungry Zambia and helping the refugees improve their own lives. □

—David M. Stowe

UCBWM Executive Vice President, recently returned from a visit to Africa

Chronicle

APPOINTMENTS

Austria

Gilbert E. and Lois S. Miller, to serve in Vienna while Gilbert works as pastor of the Vienna Community Church. Associates, 5 years. Home church: Clare Congregational, UCC, Clare, MI.

Egypt

Janet G. Clarke, to teach English at Ramses College in Cairo. Associate, 2 years. Home church: Church of the Evangel, Brooklyn, NY.

Dennis and Susan D. Barger, to serve with the Coptic Orthodox Church in Cairo. Associates, 1 year. Home church: Immanuel UCC, Souderton, PA.

El Salvador

David S. Marshall, to serve with Emmanuel Baptist Church in San Salvador. Volunteer, 1 month. Home church: University Congregational Church, Seattle, WA.

Germany, West

Ellen Young, to serve as a fraternal worker with the Paulus Church in West Berlin. Associate, 2 years. Home church: St. Paul's UCC, Manheim, PA.

India

Jenny Boteler, to study at the United Theological College in Bangalore. Theological Student, 6 months. Home church: St. Peter's UCC, Houston, TX.

Peter A. Campbell, to study at the United Theological College in Bangalore. Theological Student, 6 months. Home church: First Congregational Church, Springfield, VT.

George S. Haskins, to serve as a computer consultant at American College in Madurai. Volunteer, 6 months. Home church: First Plymouth Congregational, Englewood, CO.

Japan

Myron W. and Naomi A. Ross, to serve at the Maris Brothers School in Nishinomiya, Myron as English teacher and chaplain and Naomi as librarian. Affiliates, 5 years. Home church: Central Union Church, Honolulu, HI.

Liberia

Edward C. and Frances W. Riggs, to serve at Curran Lutheran Hospital in Zorzorm under sponsorship of the Lutheran World Federation, Edward as a consultant in community health and Frances as an instructor in midwifery. Volunteers, 1 year. Home church: Church of South India, India.

Nepal

Karen E. and Stephen M. Knisely, to serve with the United Mission to Nepal, he as a forester and she doing preventive dental care under the International Subsistence Service Program of the Presbyterian Church in the USA. Associates, 2 years. Home churches: Church of Christ at Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH, and First Presbyterian Church, Socorro, NM.

Taiwan

Gary R. Hoff and Linda S. Petrucelli, to serve in Tainan at the request of the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan, Gary with the Church Press and Linda in campus ministries. Team Appointment, 4 years. Home church: First Baptist Church, UCC, Bloomington, IN.

Barbara B. and Sterling H. Whitener, to serve at Tunghai University in Taichung, Barbara teaching English and Sterling teaching social work and gerontology. Team Appointment, 3 years. Home church: First UCC of Salisbury, Salisbury, NC.

REAPPOINTMENTS

India

Michael C. and Ruth K. Lockwood, to serve at Madras Christian College while he works as an instructor in philosophy. Team Appointment, 3 years. Home church: First Congregational UCC, Milton, MA.

Indonesia

Anne S. and Tjaard G. Hommes, to serve at the Higher Seminary (Duta Wacana) in Yogyakarta, she teaching sociology and English and he working as Professor of Pastoral Theology and also as Director of the Institute of Advanced Pastoral Studies at the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology. Team Appointment, 3 years. Home churches: Sweden Community Church, Sweden, ME, and St. Peter's UCC, South Bend, IN.

Turkey

Lynda M.G. Bakkaloglu, to teach mathematics at the Tarsus American School. Individual Appointment, 3 years. Home church: St. John's Church, Sandown, England.

Cerina L. and Richard W. Blakney, to serve with the Near East Mission at Redhouse Press in Istanbul. Team Appointment, 4 years. Home churches: Bradford Memorial Church, Cebu City, Philippines, and First Congregational Church, South Hadley, MA.

Fay M. Linder, to serve as head of the physical education department at the Uskudar American School in Istanbul. Individual Appointment, 5 years. Home church: Union Church of Istanbul, Istanbul, Turkey.

Douglas H. Wallace, to serve as librarian at the Uskudar American School in Istanbul. Individual Appointment, 3 years. Home church: United Church of Christ, Martinez, CA.

Sri Lanka

Robert G. Porter, to teach English at Jaffna College. Individual Appointment, 3 years. Home church: Woodland Park Presbyterian, Seattle, WA.

REASSIGNMENT

Anne Crane, transferred from Mt. Selinda School in Mt. Selinda to the Danhiko School in Harare, Zimbabwe, for the remainder of her term.

Martha J. and Nathan L. Knoll, transferred from development work in the Kilinochchi area, Sri Lanka, to Kodaikanal School, India, and its related rural development program.

Allen P. and Judith C. Myrick, transferred from the Natal Region in South Africa of the United Congregational Church of Southern Africa to the Zimbabwe Synod of the same church.

Anna Grant Sibley, to serve as a peacemaking consultant with UCBWM for a period of one year, working with partner-churches and institutions in Central America.

EXTENSION OF TERM

Gwendolyn A. Colegrove, Turkey, term extended to 4 years through August 31, 1985.

Chelsea R. Kesselheim, Turkey, term extended through August 31, 1985.

David A. Mallory, Turkey, term extended 1 year through August 31, 1985.

Ralph T. Parkinson, Senegal, term extended 6 months through July, 1984.

Carol A. and Lawrence C. Gilley, Swaziland, term extended to 3 years, 6 months through December, 1985.

Douglas M. and R. Lois Hill, Turkey, term extended to 4 years through July 31, 1985.

HOME ASSIGNMENT

Audrey N. Gilg (Japan), 3 months beginning July 1, 1985.

Gerda and J. Manfred Laun (India), 12 months beginning July 1, 1984.

Eugene H. and Natalie S. Johnson (Zimbabwe), 12 months beginning September 1, 1984.

Continued from page 13

Wallace A. and Ruth S. Robeson (Turkey), 2 months beginning June 1, 1984.

Myron W. and Naomi A. Ross (Japan), 3 months beginning June 1, 1984.

Jean S. Winter (Zimbabwe), 3 months beginning May 15, 1984.

EXTENSION OF HOME ASSIGNMENT

Barbara W. Alling (Pakistan), home assignment extended 14 months through May 31, 1985 to be used for study while Guy Alling, her husband, is in Pakistan.

Thomas R. Paton (Japan), home assignment extended 14 months through July 31, 1985.

COMPLETION OF TERM

Peggy Andrews,
Zambia, Sept., 1981 - March, 1984.

Elizabeth H. Anderson,
Turkey, August, 1981 - August, 1984.

Jack A. and Margaret S. Batten,
Turkey, Jan., 1984 - July, 1984.

Charles G. Chakerian,
Taiwan, Feb., 1976 - July, 1984.

Kyoko A. Grant,
Japan, August, 1966 - Sept., 1984.

Elaine M. and Stephen D. McDuff,
Zimbabwe, Sept., 1981 - Sept., 1984.

Edwin G. and Wilma Kloppe,
West Germany, July, 1983 - June, 1984.

Ralph T. Parkinson,
Togo & Senegal, Jan., 1981 - July, 1984.

Wenda C. Paton,
Japan, August, 1966 - May, 1984.

David E. Pattee,
Zambia, June, 1983 - June, 1984.

Paige E. Payne,
Turkey, August, 1982 - August, 1984.

Donald E. and Elizabeth A.O. Richter,
United Kingdom, Sept., 1978 - June, 1984.

Myron W. and Naomi A. Ross,
Japan, May, 1954 - August, 1984.
(for announcement of new appointment, see above)

Lilie B. Sargent,
Turkey, Sept., 1980 - May, 1984.
(for announcement of new appointment, see *Whole Earth Newsletter,* Vol. XIV, No. 1)

Todd T. Tischer,
Turkey, August, 1981 - August, 1984.

Raymond L. and Rhea M. Whitehead,
Hong Kong & Canada, May, 1960 - June, 1984.

Linda Gosselin Yamamoto,
Japan, Sept., 1978 - July, 1984.

RETURN TO FIELD

Anna G. and William A. Edmonds, Turkey.

Padmasani J. Gallup, India.

Margaret Garner, Japan.

Eleanore Hire, Japan.

Haru S. and James E. Landes, Japan.

Ruth S. and Wallace M. Robeson, Turkey.

EXTENSION OF LEAVE OF ABSENCE

Douglas R. and Ngoc-May Thi Beane, leave of absence extended from June 1, 1984 through May 31, 1985.

LOSSES IN THE BOARD FAMILY

Everett A. Babcock, member of the UCBWM New York staff (1961-1971), died in Venice, FL, on June 14, 1984, at the age of 76.

Everett Babcock was a native of Craftsbury Common, VT, and a graduate of the Hardwick Academy in Vermont, Florida Southern College, and Yale Divinity School. He served as executive secretary of the Vermont Council of Churches from 1938 to 1940, executive secretary of the Connecticut Council of Churches from 1940 to 1945, and, from 1945 to 1961, the chief executive officer of the Ohio Conference of the Congregational Christian Churches, later the United Church of Christ.

In 1961 he became treasurer of the United Church Board for World Ministries, a position he held until his retirement in 1971.

Mr. Babcock is survived by his wife Hannah, two sons, one daughter, ten grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Faith B. Drobish, missionary in Turkey (1961-1963), died in Oroville, CA, on August 12, 1984, at the age of 88.

Born in Eugene, OR, and having gained a B.A. degree from the University of California in Berkley, Faith Drobish spent much of her life on a 900-acre ranch in the Feather River foothills outside Oroville, CA, where she and her husband established a church retreat and children's camp. As a 65-year-old grandmother, she left Far View Ranch in 1961 to teach business English and typing at Izmir American School in Izmir, Turkey. She remained at Izmir until 1963, when she returned to the United States, via India and the Far East, to spend the third year of her missionary term doing deputation in UCC churches around the country.

Mrs. Drobish is survived by one son, one daughter, five grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

Priscilla Holton (Neff) Fenn, missionary in China and Mexico (1923-1926, 1931-1938), died in Doylestown, PA, on August 20, 1984, at the age of 83.

A native of Massachusetts and graduate of Mt. Holyoke College, Mrs. Fenn (then Priscilla Holton) was a teacher in the Wenshan Girls School in Foochow, China, from 1923 to 1926. In addition to teaching she did field work among the students and wrote two books, *The Spirit of the Street,* a collection of stories about Chinese children, and *The Blue Junk.* In 1931 she married Clarence A. Neff and went with him to Mexico, where they worked as a missionary team. They withdrew from Mexico in 1938 due to budget reductions caused by the Great Depression and resettled to Claremont, CA, where he served as associate minister at a local church and she held a position at Claremont Graduate School in the field of the teaching of children's literature in colleges and universities.

Mr. Neff died in 1962. Five years later she married Dr. William P. Fenn, General Secretary for the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

Mrs. Fenn is survived by her second husband and three sons.

Helen D. MacEachron, missionary in China and Turkey (1917-1922, 1958-1959), died in Des Moines, IA, on July 24, 1984, at the age of 95.

Born in Kansas, Helen MacEachron gained a B.A. from Grinnell College, going to north China in 1916 with her husband Paul MacEachron on a Grinnell-related program. The Grinnell-in-China program brought together students, friends, and alumni of Grinnell College to provide volunteers and financial support for a Christian educational effort in China under the auspices of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions. The MacEachrons were in Peking for a year and in 1917 moved to Tehchow, where they stayed until 1922.

In 1958, after having earned an M.A. at Oberlin College and taught many years at various high schools in Des Moines, Mrs. MacEachron returned to the mission field, teaching for one year at the Uskudar American School in Istanbul, Turkey.

Mrs. MacEachron is survived by three sons, six grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Sarah (Sally) A. Medlicott, member of ABCFM staff in Boston (1937-1954), died in Urbana, IL, on May 29, 1984, at the age of 97.

For 17 years Sally Medlicott served in the Missions Council of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM), a predecessor of the United Church Board for World Ministries, where she directed the speakers bureau. The Missions Council was an agency of the ABCFM and other Congregational church bodies which had interpretive and educational work as its focus.

Mrs. Medlicott is survived by one son and one daughter.

Eunice Phelps Rice, missionary in South Africa (1925-1934), died in Indianapolis, IN, on June 28, 1984, at the age of 89.

Born in California and a graduate of Kingfisher College, Eunice Phelps Rice went to South Africa with her husband Rev. Norman Rice in 1925. After spending some time in Durban for language study, they went to the Adams Mission Station to do educational work. In 1927 they moved to the Mapumulo Mission Station, returning to the United States in 1934.

The Rices spent much of the rest of their lives in the Pacific Northwest, where he was pastor of a small rural church. Both remained very interested in the overseas mission of their denomination, regularly contributing to UCBWM. In 1969 the Norman and Eunice Rice Fund was established to serve as the repository for a particularly generous gift. In 1981 the Rices became members of UCBWM's Samuel J. Mills Society, the couple having contributed over $100,000 to the Board over the years.

Mrs. Rice is survived by one son and three daughters.

Grace E. Riggs, missionary in China (1916-1951), died in Boulder, CO, on May 14, 1984, at the age of 90.

Born and educated in New York, Grace Riggs and her husband Charles were appointed missionaries to China in 1916 and designated to the Foochow Mission in Shaowu, where she worked with women and girls in domestic economy and Christian fellowship. In 1927 the Riggs, along with other missionaries, were forced to leave Shaowu due to the unstable political situation, returning to the area in 1928. In 1932 Mrs. Riggs and her husband were transferred to Nanking, where she continued her work with women, leading informal Bible study and reading groups and Bible study classes at Hilcrest School. The Riggs moved to Chengtu, China, in 1938, where Mrs. Riggs became the English secretary to the Dean of Agriculture at Nanking University and taught English classes at the middle school. She spent the years 1944-1946 in the United States, returning to Nanking University in 1946 as a teacher, finally leaving China with her husband in 1951.

From 1952 to 1961 Mrs. Riggs served as a hostess at the Congregational Christian Service Committee Center in New York City.

Mrs. Riggs is survived by two daughters and one son.

GIFTS RECEIVED IN MEMORY OF

Mr. Ozdemir Aktan
Dr. Alfred C. Bartholomew
First Congregational Church, Branford, CT
Miss Isabel Hemingway
Mrs. J. Lyle McCorison
Dr. and Mrs. H. Telfer Mook
Mrs. Bernice H. Penner
Dr. and Mrs. Don P. Van Dyke
Miss Ruhama Yeranian

Rev. Everett A. Babcock
Mrs. Hannah C. Babcock
Dr. and Mrs. Ira D. Black
Mr. and Mrs. Lee G. Burneson
Rev. Loring D. Chase
Miss Mildred P. Fitts
Mr. Frank Greenwood
Ms. Alice Greenwood
Mr. and Mrs. Carl H. Holdridge
Rev. and Mrs. John H. Huston
Miss Mary S. King
Mrs. Barbara M. Kuite
Mrs. J. Lyle McCorison
Ms. Patricia A. Mignin
Mrs. Martha S. Patrick
Rev. and Mrs. Robert F. R. Peters
Mrs. Gladys Slater
Rev. Myles H. Walburn
Rev. Max H. Webster
Whitney Elementary School, Strongsville, OH
Miss Ruhama Yeranian

Mrs. Helen E. Baker
Dr. and Mrs. H. Telfer Mook
Miss Ruhama Yeranian

Mrs. Magdaline Bartell
Miss Janell J. Landis

Mrs. Grace Dewey
Rev. Walter J. Olsen

Mrs. Faith B. Drobish
Rev. Everett C. Blake

Miss M. Naomi Foster
Center Congregational Church, Manchester, CT
Ms. Frances M. Eddy
Mr. and Mrs. James L. Fitzgibbon
SMSgt. and Mrs. Lawrence S. Jones
Mrs. Mary Louise Kirk
Ms. Beatrice St. Laurent
Mrs. Emel Bir Ulug
Dr. Beulah Marie Wang
Dr. Judith B. Welles
Miss Ruhama Yeranian

Ms. Rusty Goodrich
Mr. L. Carrington Goodrich

Dr. Peter G. Gowing
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald H. Anderson
Mr. and Mrs. Donald P. Gowing

Dr. Emin Kilic Kale
Miss Isabel Hemingway

Mrs. William H. Medlicott
Miss Ruhama Yeranian

Mrs. Zita Membert
Mrs. Joan E. Shropshire

Ms. Florence Paton
Ms. Pauline J. Nelson

Mr. Carl W. Phelps
Miss Lavinia Scott

Mrs. Eunice P. Rice
Mr. and Mrs. Erling W. Peterson

Rev. George R. Snyder
Dr. Eugene E. Grau

Alford Carleton Leadership XXI Fund
Mrs. Helen L. Morgan

UCC and Central America

Continued from Page 9

UCC involvement with Central American issues is the new pamphlet *Connecting the United Church of Christ with Central America.* Both the study course materials and the pamphlet may be ordered from:

Latin America/Caribbean Office
UCBWM
475 Riverside Drive, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10115.

To supplement the study course, two 26-minute videotapes, *The UCC and Central America* and *A Church Debates US Policy in Central America* are available from the UCC Office of Communication. For details on these videotapes, including rental and purchase costs, contact:

Office of Communication, UCC
105 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10016. □

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To the UCC minister: We hope that you will find the ***Newsletter*** useful in your church. Please share it with your Mission Committee and feel free to use the material in any way you wish.

If you are now receiving ***Whole Earth Newsletter*** either as a single copy or in bulk, we shall greatly appreciate your sending $1 for each year's subscription to Dalton Smith at UCBWM.

Volunteers Needed in Turkey

On a recent visit to the UCBWM office in New York missionary Nancy Wittler, working in Istanbul, described the development of Turkey's first residential institution for retarded children, in which she has been involved. Known as the Child Care Center, the home is sponsored by the Turkish Mothers Association, a charitable society which carries out a variety of social projects, relying to a great extent on the work of volunteers.

The Child Care Center accommodates 40 children between the ages of 6 and 16, providing whatever training is possible, as well as counseling and guidance.

Need for this type of work in Turkey is great, but no training opportunities are available to prepare persons with the skills needed to work with retarded children. Persons qualified as teachers of special education, who could volunteer to spend some time in Turkey to provide training sessions to Turkish staff to prepare them for work with retarded children, would be greatly welcomed. Anyone interested should contact:

Overseas Personnel Office, UCBWM
475 Riverside Drive, 16th Floor
New York, NY 10115. □

Esther C. Jaeger Fund Supports Khariar Hospital

UCBWM-related Evangelical Mission Hospital in Khariar, India, has benefited from a generous bequest of $157,000 from Esther C. Jaeger. Khariar is in an economically depressed rural area, and many of the patients it serves cannot afford the medical treatment they need. The Evangelical Mission Hospital's policy is to provide the medical service which is needed, regardless of the patient's ability to pay, and the interest income from the investment of the Jaeger bequest will provide the funds required to cover the difference between what patients can pay and the cost of the medical services.

Mrs. Jaeger was born and raised in Amherst, OH, where she attended St. Peter's UCC. With her husband Walter, who worked in a nearby steel mill, she lived a frugal, simple life, attending church regularly. They had no children and managed each year to save a small amount of their income. On one occasion Dr. Manfred Laun, UCBWM missionary doctor, spoke at the church about his work in India.

In the mid-1950s the Jaegers moved to Hollywood, FL, where they continued to live modestly in retirement for 20 years until Mr. Jaeger's death. About 1979 Mrs. Jaeger asked an insurance agent and longtime friend, who was planning to be in New York City for a convention, to visit the UCBWM office, and on his return to Florida he gave her a favorable report of this contact. Mrs. Jaeger then signed a will on May 28, 1980, providing for the major gift for the work of Dr. Laun in Khariar. Mrs. Jaeger died quietly early in 1983.

Thus, the careful savings of the Jaegers, combined with the opportunity they had for a personal meeting with Dr. Laun to learn about his work, have provided the means by which their own life-long Christian devotion maintains a permanent form of service through the vital work of a church hospital in India.

Undoubtedly, there are others who have the capability to contribute to the needs of mission and who perhaps need only to become more specifically acquainted with the work being carried on by the church around the world. UCBWM is always ready to discuss such needs with any who are seeking effective ways to use the resources they have for the benefit of Christian mission. □